

Free Education

Proposed by: Jake Saunders

Seconded by: Sally Bernard

This Union Believes:

1. Tuition fees were raised from £3000 to £9000 in 2012 for home students, leaving the average undergraduate home student in over £44,000 worth of debt¹;
2. Home and EU students commencing their studies at Central in the next academic year (i.e. 2017/18) will pay £9,250 a year;
3. The Government have scrapped maintenance grants;
4. There is no cap on tuition fees for International Students or Postgraduate students;
5. The government's Teaching Excellence Framework will allow institutions to be labelled 'gold' 'silver' and 'bronze' according to their 'ranking' on metrics that students have not been a part of constructing;
6. The Teaching Excellence Framework's link to tuition fees has been postponed until 2020/21 as a result of direct action from Student Unions;

This Union Further Believes:

1. Raising tuition fees and scrapping maintenance grants is discouraging students from low income backgrounds from accessing HE;
2. Changing the threshold of earnings for loan repayment will mean that graduates will be worse off and will continue to suffer further as inflation rises.
3. Access to education is a fundamental human right, enshrined in Protocol 1, Article 2 of the Human Rights Act (1998) which states that: "No person shall be denied a right to an education."
4. This Human Right is being violated by a Government that is making HE inaccessible to people from low-income backgrounds.
5. After the year 2020/21 the Teaching Excellence Framework may be used to raise tuition fees;
6. Ranking universities according to the Teaching Excellence Framework
7. In 2015, Central SU passed a motion in Student Council to fight for Free Education, but there is no evidence for this;

This Union Resolves:

1. To campaign for Free Education and living grants for both home and international students in FE and HE;
2. To reaffirm our position to strongly oppose any increase to tuition fees, both nationally and at Central;
3. To show visual support for Free Education on campus and in the public eye;
4. To continue to fight the Government's Teaching Excellence Framework and its link to tuition fees;

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36150276>